

into Assam from Tibet. The Cossyah Hills [Khasia] are not very far from Tibet, only Bhutan intervening, and the Daphla and Aka Hills. In this case the monkeys must have swum the broad Brahmaputra River as there are no bridges. This monkey had a greenish black face with hair all round of a golden colour. I could not see the nose. A long tail; long greyish hair with a golden lustre on the back.

But the most distinctive appearance was the lovely rich red and yellow colouration of the chest and belly. The palms and feet were black. The only sound they made was a series of grunts and wheezing noises. I should like to reassure [?] of this lovely creature from other hunters.

P.S.—I never came across this monkey in other parts of the Naga Hills nor in the Chin and Lushai Hills and no part of Burma.

EDITORS

## 2. HOW DO THE LARGER FELINES SECURE NIMBLE PREY?

It is known that monkeys and langurs commonly fall victims to panther; but it is not so generally known how the latter manage to kill these primates. Their foes are few; but they recognise the panther as being their enemy No. 1, with the tiger a good second; hence their agitation and 'swearing', reserved for felines. How are the kills accomplished with the agile monkeys and langurs apparently quite safe in the tree-tops? Nature provides a check to their numbers by producing a form of mass hysteria among them when a panther, or tiger, starts to stalk them on the forest floor. Instead of remaining safe on the trees the primates lose their heads and behave in a ridiculous way, jumping from tree to tree, branch to branch and, as the feline adopts a pretence of imminent tree climbing, it is never long before one or more of the stupid animals actually jump to the ground to escape from an imagined tree-top attack, and so play into the feline's paws!

Again, how does the heavy tiger manage to kill the fleet-footed deer? More than often this is accomplished by the stupid behaviour of the deer; obviously a provision of nature. We call it 'curiosity' on the part of deer; and so it appears to be. Deer will actually deliberately strut *towards* a hidden tiger or panther—tail erect and calling. The feline stalks through cover as noiselessly as possible. If, however, its approach has attracted the attention of the deer, either by sound or by its movements, then it plays on the deer's inquisitiveness by lying low, leaving its intended victim to shorten the distance between predator and prey by the latter's suicidal slow approach. The advantage lies with the tiger, crouching tensed for the spring or bound forward, the deer losing time by turning, too late, to flee; the tiger is on it before the poor creature is able to get up full speed.

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[The late Maharao Vijayarajji of Kutch who was a keen naturalist and experienced sportsman, once related what purported to be an eye-witness account of a panther killing a full grown camel in Kutch—an occurrence apparently not too uncommon in those parts. When near a browsing camel, the panther lay down and commenced rolling on the ground. The rustling of the leaves attracted the camel's attention and it came closer to investigate the strange turmoil. The panther, partly covered by the leaves, continued to roll about slowly till the camel's curiosity caused it to lower its head and bring it still closer. When within range the panther sprang on it like lightning and held it down. In the ensuing rough and tumble the camel was thrown to the ground with the panther firmly astride its neck and at its throat.—Eds.]

### 3. UNRECORDED SOUNDS MADE BY TIGER AND WILD DOG

While sitting up over a tiger kill, on the night of the 12th, two tigers gave vent to a most unusual noise; a noise that I have, in fact, only three times previously heard tigers make; and that some twenty years ago. In those days I thought that one tiger was responsible for the noise; on each occasion the tiger was obviously suspicious and did not come to the kill, but made the noise 'off stage'. The sound commenced every time, with a perfect imitation of a locomotive suddenly letting off steam, lasting only about 4 or 5 seconds followed by a series of guttural 'chuckles' repeated from 60 to 80 times, not unlike the chuckles emitted by a hyaena. At night this sounds most eerie. In the recent case both tigers made the noise, one of them twice, and the other three times. Neither came to the kill, which had been moved a yard or two in order to secure it to a stump; and some undergrowth had had to be removed around it. This undoubtedly made the two tigers very suspicious. But whether the sounds described expressed their annoyance, or were in the nature of a warning to each other, or intended to be threatening to those who had interfered with their kill I could not say. Dunbar Brander, in his 'Wild Animals in Central India', describes how a tiger will express pleasure by blowing air on to their lips which vibrate not unlike the noise made by horses through their nostrils, but this description in no way conveys the noise I heard. What Dunbar Brander thus describes is the tiger's 'purr'.

For the first time in my experience I heard, on the 15th instant, a lone wild dog make a noise which can best be described as similar to the 'Phecow' a jackal is known to utter often when a tiger approaches its kill the jackal is feeding on, so heralding the tiger's arrival. The noise was also not very unlike the shrill scream of the 'Devil Bird' heard at night in the forest. The wild dog (a large male) repeated the call several times, the cries being heard fainter as the dog went off along the jungle road. The first three or four cries sounded *somewhat* like a high-pitched human call, 'ow-o-o-o-o-oh', the final 'oh' on a lower note; but, later, the initial 'ow' appeared to be dropped.